

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR EARLE'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 8, 1978
- (SALT TWO-1776)

1. BEGIN TEXT

MR. MINISTER:

- I

TODAY I WILL ADDRESS THE SUBJECT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM LAUNCHES COVERED BY ARTICLE XVI OF THE TREATY.

- II

BOTH SIDES HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF PROPOSALS REGARDING THIS SUBJECT. AS A RESULT, THE SIDES ARE CLOSE TO ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON ARTICLE XVI. THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO RESOLVE THE FEW REMAINING
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QUESTIONS AT AN EARLY DATE.

THE SIDES ARE IN AGREEMENT ON THE BASIC CONCEPT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM LAUNCHES AND ON THE PREMISE THAT SUCH NOTIFICATION CAN ENHANCE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE SIDES. THE SIDES ARE ALSO IN AGREEMENT THAT THERE SHOULD BE OBJECTIVE STANDARDS FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AND THAT

IT IS DESIRABLE TO DIFFERENTIATE IN THE TREATY BETWEEN SINGLE AND MULTIPLE LAUNCHES. IN ADDITION, ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT ALL ICBM LAUNCHES BY THE UNITED STATES WOULD AS A PRACTICAL MATTER CONTINUE TO BE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION, THE UNITED STATES HAS INDICATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AN EXEMPTION FOR SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM DESIGNATED TEST RANGES, EVEN THOUGH SUCH AN EXEMPTION WOULD EXCLUDE FROM THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION THE MAJOR PORTION OF SOVIET LAUNCHES.

HOWEVER, THE SOVIET SIDE HAS NOT AGREED THAT SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREAS AND ALL MULTIPLE LAUNCHES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ORIGIN, SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. NOR IS THERE AGREEMENT ON THE TIME CRITERION REQUIRED TO DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN SINGLE AND MULTIPLE LAUNCHES.

ON MAY 12, THE UNITED STATES PROPOSED A DEFINITION FOR SINGLE ICBM LAUNCHES WHICH HAS THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF IDENTIFYING A MULTIPLE LAUNCH AS THE LAUNCHING OF TWO OR MORE ICBMS WITHIN SIXTY MINUTES, REGARDLESS OF ORIGIN. IN MAKING THIS PROPOSAL, THE UNITED STATES REITERATED ITS VIEW THAT EACH SINGLE LAUNCH FROM AN ICBM DEPLOYMENT AREA AND ALL MULTIPLE LAUNCHES, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ORIGIN, MUST BE SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT OF ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. THE UNITED STATES REAFFIRMS THAT VIEW TODAY. THE DIFFER-
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ENCES IN ICBM LAUNCHING PRACTICES OF THE SIDES DO NOT ALTER THE FACT THAT ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF ICBM LAUNCHES WOULD SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE SIDES.

- III

MR. MINISTER, MOST OF THE ISSUES NEEDED TO RESOLVE ARTICLE XVI HAVE NOW BEEN AGREED. IN THE CONTEXT OF COMPLETING OUR WORK ON THIS ARTICLE, THE UNITED STATES IS WILLING TO MODIFY THE TIME CRITERION FOR DIFFERENTIATING BETWEEN SINGLE AND MULTIPLE ICBM LAUNCHES PROVIDED THE SOVIET SIDE IS WILLING TO MODIFY ITS POSITION ON ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF SINGLE LAUNCHES FROM ICBM LAUNCHER DEPLOYMENT AREAS, AS WELL AS ITS POSITION REGARDING THE ORIGIN OF MULTIPLE LAUNCHES. END TEXT. EARLE

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